



MOREHEAD REGENTS OK PLAN TO CUT ATHLETIC PROGRAM'S DEFICIT



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MOREHEAD -- With Morehead State University's athletic program losing more than \$1 million a year, the school's board of regents yesterday approved a plan to cut the deficit.

Following President A.D. Albright's lead, the board unanimously recommended that Morehead's athletic department prepare a plan to ensure that it pays at least half of its total expenses within three years.

During the 1986 fiscal year, Morehead State's sports programs cost \$1,630,222, but generated only \$354,896, according to a financial statement distributed at yesterday's meeting.

The board also approved these recommendations by Albright:

- * Money raised for the athletic department's share of expenses should come

from sources outside the university, such as ticket sales, television revenues and private fund raising.

- * Morehead should encourage the Ohio Valley Conference to allow its members "to seek (their) own level of competition in football without affecting (their) membership in the OVC" in other sports.

- * Any expense reductions between now and 1991 should not affect the school's commitment to women's sports.

- * Future increases in Morehead's \$40 student activity fee should not be designated for the athletic program, which now receives credit for \$20 of the amount.

Moran said Albright had reviewed the proposals with his department before yesterday's meeting.

He said the regents should remember the "intangibles" that intercollegiate sports give to the university.

"How much is a Phil Simms worth?" asked Moran, referring to the former Morehead quarterback who led the New York Giants to a Super Bowl championship this year.

He also said many students who were not on full athletic scholarships attended Morehead because of its

sports programs.

Albright did not propose, as some feared, that Morehead's basketball or football teams drop to a lower division of competition or quit the OVC.

His report, however, said an OVC rule "denies an institution the flexibility of addressing high-cost programs without either jeopardizing" its OVC membership or becoming less competitive in a particular sport.

In other actions yesterday, the Morehead regents:

- * Adopted a \$43.25 million budget for the 1987 fiscal year.
- * Re-elected Nunn as chairman and former Gov. Edward T. Breathitt as vice chairman.
- * Swore in newly elected faculty regent Alban Wheeler, a sociology professor, and Dr. Allan M. Lansing of Louisville, who was recently reappointed to the board.
- * Approved the sale of 122 mobile homes awarded to Morehead after a lawsuit involving Morehead businessman Ed Mabry.